

# Murphy planning cuts in FY2022 budget

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
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HOLYOKE – The Holyoke City Council discussed the FY2022 budget at a special meeting last Wednesday night.

Acting Mayor and Ward 2 Councilor Terence Murphy said he had hoped to avoid a special meeting, but needed more time to put the draft of the budget together.

Murphy is developing a budget for the first time, but says he was looking to put whoever is elected mayor in the fall in a good position to succeed with room for adjustments.

“It’s been an interesting four weeks, hectic four weeks,” Murphy said. “I was able to meet with all the department heads in an effort to discuss how we can improve city services. My ultimate goal was to present a budget with stability.”

He also said he wanted the new mayor to begin with a sound financial footing.

Murphy is calling for cuts to the budget in an effort to reduce spending coming off a year in which the budget was slashed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and there were also plenty of unused funds due to school being remote and other

city services being used less.

The city as well as the state are on the verge of exiting the pandemic and Murphy will be looking to make the city more active in the coming months.

Murphy discussed the sewer budget, and said the budget has been running at a deficit for quite some time.

During the past few years, there has been issues with some sewer and water use fees that have gone uncollected with some residents owing thousands. There has also been a pressing need to raise sewer rates so the enterprise fund will no longer run at a deficit.

He said there will be about \$3 million in cuts, but there is still a 2.4% increase in the overall budget this year.

Councilor Joseph McGiverin complimented Murphy on completing the budget ahead of previous years under Mayor Alex Morse. Murphy had apologized for taking so long to get the budget finished.

Council President Todd McGee said budget talks will be occurring in the coming weeks with the council looking to vote on the budget by the end

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# Acting mayor to exit political arena at end of term

Murphy had support to make a run, but will vacate the seat as well as city council seat when his term ends

By Shelby Macri  
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HOLYOKE – Acting Mayor Terence Murphy announced this week he will end his political career when his time as acting mayor and city councilor ends.

He hosted a press conference on Wednesday, May 19 to announce that he will not be running for mayor in the upcoming election.

Murphy will fulfill the role for the next few months, but will not become a candidate. But when he leaves, he will also be leaving the city council. He currently serves as the Ward 2 councilor.

“People are starting to think I am running and I want to make sure they’re aware,” Murphy said. “I’m announcing that I’m not a candidate and I will not be a candidate for mayor. I’m here for the next six months to get the city in the best position positive for

whoever the next mayor is, and I just wanted to clarify that.”

He said his only agenda is the city’s agenda, and he’ll be focusing on as many items as he can before a new mayor is chosen. Although Murphy has received a lot of support and has been asked to run, he wants to make it clear that he will be leaving in six months when his time as acting mayor is over.

As he will be acting Mayor during the May 29 lifting of restrictions, Murphy touched base on some changes the city will be seeing. City hall will be opening on June 1, and for the first couple of weeks he is requiring people to wear masks inside if they need to visit the city hall or his office. The building will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. but they will be locking the door at 12 noon for a half-hour to allow for a break of people and to allow offices to be cleaned. There will be someone taking names so if anything happens, there will be contact tracing available.

When someone asks to head to the city clerk’s office they will be told if there is enough space in the room or to wait of there is not.

“I’m having a meeting



Acting Mayor Terence Murphy addresses his political future at a press conference on Wednesday afternoon.

Photo by Shelby Macri

Monday with the employees,” Murphy said. “I want to hear all their concerns. I want to keep the public safe but I want my employees to be safe.”

In addition to the city hall, the Holyoke Senior Center will be opening on June 7 and the Library will be opening June 14. Murphy stated his concern for the safety of the public and his employee’s and he kept that momentum throughout the press conference.

When asked about city activities being held this year, Murphy said he would like to see places open; like the

See MAYOR, page 5

# Soldiers’ Home bond bill moves forward

HOLYOKE – On Friday, May 14, the House-Senate Conference Committee appointed to reconcile differences between versions of the Holyoke Soldiers’ Home Bond Bill announced that they reached a compromise. The final conference report authorizes \$400 million in bonds for the design and construction of a new facility for the Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke and \$200 million in general obligation bonds for Veteran housing across the State.

Senator John C. Velis (D-Westfield), who represents the Holyoke Soldiers’ Home and is Chair of the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs, applauded the Committee for their work.

“From the very start—after last year’s tragedy—families and friends of veterans reached out to me with a very clear message: get this done. The marching orders were clear, get the mission accomplished. From listening sessions with fami-

lies, to standouts at the Home, to the vigil that took place last month to mark the one anniversary, this has been a truly long and enduring process. We fought for this Home reconstruction for months,” stated Senator Velis.

“I want to thank all the Veterans, families, and community members who have advocated alongside me for a new Holyoke Soldiers’ Home facility for so long. We are one step closer towards making it a reality. At the end of the day this project is all about the blood, sweat and tears of our veterans and our recognition of the need to give them what they profoundly deserve. I want to thank all of the veterans, veterans’ families, and fellow lawmakers who supported me in this remarkable process.”

The State is currently working towards an Aug. 1 VA Veterans State Home Construction Grant Program deadline. DCAMM, the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance, cannot begin the design process until the Bond Bill is signed into law. If

See SOLDIERS, page 5



# About 44 percent of HPS students remain remote

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
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HOLYOKE – The Holyoke School Committee received an update on the fast-approaching deadline to set a budget for the fiscal, as well as getting update on the return to school.

There are about 44 percent of students still not attending the Holyoke Public Schools in person, despite the fact that protocols continue to relax and it has been deemed safer to return to school buildings.

Holyoke’s Interim Receiver/Superintendent Anthony Soto started phasing students back into school in late February/early March and the governor had set an early April date to get students back into school full time.

Less than six percent of students came to school early in the school year.

“Today (Monday), was a day where we welcomed

all our high school students back,” said Soto. “We’re hovering over 50 percent. They’re about 50 percent on each campus.”

The numbers are based off a return-to-school survey that was given out prior to the high school return.

There are more than 50 percent of students in the middle school grades attending school, and more than 61 percent of elementary school students.

Acting Mayor Terence Murphy asked if the schools have reached out to the remaining 44 percent to see what the issue with returning to in-person learning. He also asked w

“We have surveyed all of our parents starting back in January,” said Soto. “This just parents opting out and choosing to stay remote. I think that with such little time left in the school year, there are some parents that are more comfortable waiting.”

See REMOTE page 5



## In The News

Originally from Buffalo, N.Y., Joe Burger earned his Bachelors in Engineering Science from the University of Detroit in 1967. He was attracted to the picturesque New England countryside and initially worked at Hamilton Standard, focusing on turbomachinery. After four exciting years in aerospace, he moved to Combustion Engineering's nuclear power division where he acted as a technical lead and served in project management and line management roles until retiring in 2009. All during his engineering career, it was always a good day when drawing was required to get a point across.

Joe began to pursue art formally in 2010, beginning with a series of classic aircraft drawings in pencil, later expanding to watercolor and pastel mediums. He has learned from some of the absolute best artists in the region, beginning with adult education classes and through private lessons and workshops. His preferred medium is watercolor, and his works are generally in the traditional realistic style. Joe has won numerous awards in local exhibits, including two Best in Show awards and two first place in Watercolor awards in the last few years, the most recent being first place Watercolor in the East Granby Public Library's 2021 Art Exhibit. He is an active member of several art organizations including the Tobacco Valley Artists Association, the Arts of Tolland, Agawam Community Artists and Artisans, and Academic Artists Association. He has conducted workshops on understanding perspective, reflections, shadows, and the like, to help other artists on the road to better paintings. Beginning in 2021, he will serve as an instructor for Painting in Watercolor for Arts Center East in Vernon, Conn. His works can be seen on-line or at his home in Broad Brook, Conn.

# Spotlight on Art: Joe Burger



Joe Burger is the featured artist by the Agawam Cultural Council this week.

*Submitted photos*



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# Residents sought to serve on city boards

HOLYOKE – Mayor Murphy is inviting all Holyoke residents interested in serving the City through its boards and commissions to send a letter of interest to the Mayor’s Office.

“The City of Holyoke is best served when we work together to solve critical issues. I extend an invitation to all residents to fully engage and participate in making our community a better place in which to live and work.” Mayor Murphy said. “Resident involvement makes City Hall more inclusive and responsive to the needs of its people while strengthening our local government.”

Furthermore, we ask for community input, thoughts, ideas, and concerns that residents and businesses wish to offer.

To submit your letter of interest and ideas, email: [mayorsoffice@holyoke.org](mailto:mayorsoffice@holyoke.org)

# Plant sale set for May 22

SPRINGFIELD – Saturday, May 22 is the Springfield Garden Club’s Annual Plant Sale from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on the campus of the Springfield Museums, 21 Edwards Street, Springfield. The club members are excited to be able to offer a wide variety of plants to the public again this year, with appropriate COVID-19 precautions in place.

A spring tradition and the Club’s major scholarship fundraiser, this is not the kind of plant sale that focuses on re-selling plants from wholesale growers. With the exception of a few donations from generous area garden centers, these plants are from members’ gardens or have been grown from seed specifically for the sale.

This is a major fund raiser for our scholarship program and a lot of fun for club members and our customers alike.

# Author to present via Zoom

HOLYOKE - Jacqueline T. Lynch, author of Beside the Still Waters, a novel based on the four towns demolished to create the Quabbin Reservoir, will talk on the historical background of the story in an online Zoom presentation hosted by the Holyoke Public Library on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 7 p.m. For the link to watch the presentation, email: [mbaron@holyokelibrary.org](mailto:mbaron@holyokelibrary.org).

# Jericho tag sale this weekend

HOLYOKE – Jericho is a non-profit organization that benefits children and young adults with disabilities. We are having a “Lifetime collection of doll & accessories” tag sale May 20 and 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and May 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Jericho, 537 Northhampton St., Holyoke. The event will be held rain or shine.



Richard Callahan, Church President, and Tom Wegman, Church Vice-President place hymnals back in the pews as St. Peter’s plans to reopen for indoor Sunday service beginning on May 23.

Submitted photo

# St. Peter’s Church set to resume indoor services

HOLYOKE – For the first time in almost a year St. Peter’s Lutheran Church of Holyoke will be back inside for Sunday worship service! The church closed it’s doors in March 2020 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The church did reopen for about a month last summer, however, they shut down again when the covid cases began rising. Since that time the church used zoom for on-line worship services. Just recently the church offered an outdoor service in the parking lot as a transition back to in-person services. The church will continue to offer a live Zoom service for their Thursday evening service which will be replayed on Sunday for those not comfortable yet with coming indoors.

Although we have had consistent opportunities for worship throughout the year, Deb Callahan, Co-Chair of Outreach, said, “I’m excited to be back indoors; to be in this space where we have all shared so much together.”

St. Peter’s invites you to join them to celebrate this wonderful day. As part of the joyous occasion the church is encouraging all members and visitors to bring a non-perishable canned item to donate to one of our local food pantries. The church is located at 34 Jarvis Street.

Social distancing and masks will be required as we will be singing, praying, and talking in unison. Please see the website [www.stpetersholyoke.org](http://www.stpetersholyoke.org) for more details.

# Hotel industry to relax mask guidelines as travel begins to expand

The following is a statement from Chip Rogers, president and CEO of the American Hotel & Lodging Association, on updated face-covering and physical distancing guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

“Like all Americans, we are excited for a return to normal life, which includes travel. The recent CDC guidelines for vaccinated Americans lifting certain face-covering restrictions was welcome news and should help speed up a much-needed recovery. As an industry, our primary concerns have always been guest and worker safety. Hotels rose to the challenge of the public health crisis through Safe Stay, an industry-wide health and safety initiative established in cooperation with AHLA. Throughout the pandemic our Safe Stay guidelines continued to evolve to align with the current environment and CDC guidelines, and the same will be true as we work to reopen.

“In light of the recent CDC announcement that fully vaccinated people no longer need to wear a mask or physically distance in most settings, our Safe Stay guidelines will relax mask requirements for guests who are fully vaccinated. At this time, we are not asking hotels to require proof of vaccination status, but we do ask that all guests and workers, vaccinated or not, respect and honor these revised guidelines. Unvaccinated guests should wear face-coverings at all times and practice

physical distancing.

“As we await further direction on how CDC guidance applies to business, hotel employees - who are the backbone of our industry - should continue to wear face-coverings indoors for the time being and follow local business and workplace guidance. For vaccinated employees working outside, or not in close contact with others, our guidelines will permit hotels to implement protocols easing face-covering requirements. Of course, all hotels are required to follow state and local requirements which may go beyond what is recommended by the CDC.

“The COVID-19 vaccine provides our nation and our industry hope for recovery after a devastating year. But, we expect further guidance from the CDC and public health experts to support our efforts to ensure the safety of our workforce, guests and the general public.

“In this spirit, as an industry we support innovative solutions to encourage our workforce and guests to get vaccinated, and call on all Americans to be vaccinated before removing face-coverings.

“Moving into the next stages of recovery and as vaccination rates continue to increase, we will carefully consider all new guidance in accordance with all applicable federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules and regulations. In the meantime, Safe Stay’s rigorous health and safety protocols will continue to help support peace of mind for travelers.”

# Parks and Recreation announces spaces available for lifeguard courses

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Parks and Recreation Department is holding American Red Cross Lifeguard Certification and Re-Certification Classes.

**Lifeguard Certification Class**

- Classes will be held on May 22 & June 5
- Classes will run from 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ~ Class will be held at the War Memorial Building for CPR/First Aid Instruction

**Lifeguard Re-Certification Class**

- Classes will be held on May 22 & June 5
- Classes will run from 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Update your skills while also extending your certification for another two years
- 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Class will be held at the War Memorial Building for CPR/First Aid Instruction

**Building for CPR/First Aid Instruction**

- 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. ~ Class will be held at the Holyoke High School Swimming Pool for Lifeguard Training
- All participants must be 16 years old
- Must pass a pre-skills test at the start of class
- \$150 for Holyoke Residents
- \$225 for non-residents
- Participants only need to attend one class

**Lifeguard Re-Certification Class**

- 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Class will be held at the Holyoke High School Swimming Pool for Lifeguard Training
- \$100 for Holyoke Residents
- \$200 for non-residents
- Participants only need to attend one class

Participants must register and be paid in full before attending the class. Please register at the Holyoke Parks and Recreation Department, 413-322-5620. Limited space available.



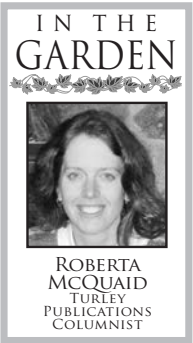
A dahlia fetish

While I always devote a portion of the vegetable garden to cut flower plots for the girls and I, last summer in particular we really got into picking big, beautiful bouquets for the house. One flower that did particularly well for us was the dahlia. I had four varieties total in varying sizes and color, and boy did these add a lot to the vase. I enjoyed harvesting them so much that I invested in a sampler pack from Old House Gardens mail order company, as well as another couple varieties from local growers. I can't wait to be surprised by what is in my sample pack.

Today was the designated day to plant them. I was a little nervous because the soil temperatures have only begun to warm up, but I had the time so I did it and will pray for the best. Sometimes you just have to do what you have to do! Read on to learn about this unique flower.

Dahlias are not hardy in our area. For that reason we wait until the danger of frost has passed to plant them. They can be started from seeds but most are grown from tubers of a named variety that was purchased from a nursery or mail order company. According to one source, there are some 50,000 named dahlia varieties! Flowers can vary in size from mignon singles that are a mere 2 inches across to AA size which grow over 10 inches wide.

Plant heights vary as well, ranging from six inches to 20 feet tall! Six different size



flowers and 14 shapes are possible with colors that appear in nearly every shade except for true blue. Small varieties make especially good bedding plants, mixing well with other annual and perennial garden flowers. Large flowered types are suitable "specimen" plants that stand well on their own in nearly any gardening situation. All are great and long-lasting cut flowers.

Dahlias have the reputation of being "high maintenance," probably because they need to be staked and pinched. They are also prone to insect and disease problems. None of this should dissuade you from growing them, however. Plant dahlias in full sun in fertile soil amended sparingly with compost and organic fertilizers. Most tubers are planted about three inches deep and one to three feet away from one another, depending on plant size. Providing enough air circulation between plants will help keep diseases at bay.

Most gardeners install a stake at planting time and attach the dahlia to it as it grows, beginning when it is a foot tall. Subsequent ties are made every 18 inches or so depending on variety. Without the use of stakes, large flowers will likely topple in the wind and rain, sometimes taking a good portion of the plant with it.

Pinching dahlias is another good practice. When the plant has three sets of leaves gently remove its growth tip. This will encourage more branching and inevitably more flowers.

Once blooming starts, it is important to cut away spent blooms on a regular basis; tubers will grow stronger because of it. Dahlias thrive on sufficient moisture, especially since they are shallow rooted. Furnish them with one inch per week during active growth. As the growing season draws to a close, hold back on water and any supplemental fertilization you have been providing. This will give the tubers a chance to harden off before they are removed from the ground.

Dig up dahlia tubers either just prior to or soon after frost hits. Leave a small portion of stem attached to the tubers; it is a great place to adhere a label. Take it from me, it is easy to forget a name over the winter months! Soil should be eased off the tubers with a spray of water before placing in storage. Choose a location to overwinter your tubers that maintain 40 to 50 degrees temps and 90% humidity. These conditions will keep them dormant and healthy until it is time to replant. Many people have good luck using a cold basement or root cellar; small quantities of tubers can be stored in the crisper drawer of the refrigerator. Placing tubers in damp peat moss, saw dust, shredded leaves or even ventilated plastic bags will help to prevent shriveling. Be sure to check on your tubers every couple of weeks throughout the offseason. Should you see shriveling, mist them with clean water and re-dampen the medium in which they were placed. If you see mold, bring down the temperature and humidity level.

See GARDEN page 5

What is the best time to claim Social Security?

By Russell Gloor

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

Dear Rusty: I will be 64 in May of this year, and I'd like to know the best time to claim Social Security. Signed: Anxious to Retire

Dear Anxious: First, please understand that there is no one "best time" to claim your Social Security benefit, because when you should claim depends upon several factors, such as:

- Your current health
- Your life expectancy
- Your immediate financial need
- Whether you are married
- Whether you are still working

When you should claim also depends upon your personal benefit goals. For example, if you wish to maximize your monthly Social Security benefit amount, you can best do that by simply waiting until age 70 to claim. For each full year you delay past your full retirement age (FRA), your Social Security benefit will grow by 8%, up to age 70 when you get the maximum you're entitled

to. If you are married and die first, that will also provide your widow with a higher benefit as your survivor if your wife's own benefit is less than yours. But waiting until age 70 to maximize isn't for everyone.

If you are in poor health and don't expect to enjoy at least average longevity (about 84 for a man your age now), then claiming earlier would be prudent. But claiming earlier also means a smaller benefit. Your full retirement age (FRA) is when you get 100% of the benefit you've earned from a lifetime of working. Your FRA is 66 ½ and if you wait longer than that you will earn Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) of .667% for each full month you delay. That means that if you delay until 70, your Social Security benefit will be 28% more than it would be at your FRA. But if you claim before you have reached your FRA, your benefit amount will be permanently reduced by .56% for each full month earlier than your FRA that you claim. If, for example, you claim your Social Security to start at age 64, your benefit will be cut by about 17% from what you'd get by waiting until your

FRA to claim. And, if you are married, that smaller benefit is what your widow's survivor benefit would be based upon if you die first.

Anytime Social Security benefits are claimed before you have reached your full retirement age, you are subject to Social Security's "earnings test" which, if you are working, limits how much you can earn before Social Security takes back some of your benefits. For 2021, the annual earnings limit is \$18,960, and if that is exceeded, they will take back benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit. The earnings test applies until you reach your FRA, after which there is no longer a limit to how much you can earn. In your specific situation, if you were to claim for your benefits to start mid-year (e.g., in May at age 64), you would be subject to a monthly earnings limit of \$1,580 for the remaining months of 2021, and if you exceed that monthly limit in any month, you won't be entitled to any benefits for that month. Then in 2022 you'll be subject to the annual limit, which isn't yet published but will be slightly more than the 2021 limit.

Exceeding the earnings limit means that Social Security will make you repay some of your benefits and, unless you make special arrangements to do otherwise, they will withhold future benefits until they recover what you owe. That means going without benefits for some months, and if you have a spouse or other dependent(s) collecting on your record, their benefits will also be suspended for that amount of time.

So, as you can see there is no one simple answer to your question of when the best time is to claim Social Security. But a careful look at your personal circumstances relative to the above information should help you make that decision.

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A Quote

OF NOTE

"It needs to be said and heard. It's okay to be who you are."

Hailee Steinfeld

Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to the-sun@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to The Sun, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.



MAYOR, from page 1

Holyoke pool and water park or fireworks for Independence Day. However, he wants to take the necessary precautions while re-opening things.

Murphy does not want to have a situation where the spread of the virus is possible. He wants to see some things open or events done, but only if it's done safely. He mentioned there are no current plans for the Fourth of July, but that if there's a way to hold a small and safe event, he would like to see that be done. Late Wednesday, Springfield announced it would hold a fireworks display for the holiday after previously

canceling the event.

Murphy spoke about trying to help local businesses re-open and mentioned that he's having a meeting with the Children's Museum and the Volleyball Hall of Fame to talk about how to re-open and what help he can provide. Murphy also spoke on doing as many things for the city as he can, like helping with outdoor activities for kids, as he feels kids are inside too much and need to get outside and socialize more. He also mentioned working with the city and state police on recent issues with dirty bikes and dangerous driving. Factors that will help the city in the long term, and will help the new mayor coming in.

REMOTE, from page 1

Soto is proud of how the Holyoke Public Schools have handled the COVID-19 pandemic. Cases have been few and far between.

"Our protocols have allowed us to contain every case that we have had," said Soto. "But some parents have just chosen to stay remote at this point."

Soto said it is possible the high school numbers will increase.

Vice Chairman Devin Sheehan said there were disproportionate percentages of parents wanting to send their students into Kelly School, saying it had the worst percentage of students attending classes in person.

Soto apologized to Sheehan, saying it was an error.

"We actually coded the fourth and fifth graders wrong, saying they were all remote," he said. "The numbers are actually a lot closer to the rest of the schools."

The information has since been corrected, Soto said.

School Committee member William Collamore said he wanted to see if the schools can reach out to parents and assist with the vaccination process in order to help get students back into school.

Soto said it was not necessarily a school function, but the schools have helped families by giving them information about vaccination opportunities.

"Holyoke Health Center has done an amazing job creating opportunities for families to get vaccinated," said Soto.

BUDGET, from page 1

of June to start the next fiscal year on July 1.

McGiverin also asked Murphy if any stimulus funds were used as revenue for the FY22 budget. Murphy said no. Holyoke received \$74 million in funding for the city and its public schools.

Murphy said he attended a webinar regarding the stimulus money and

learned Holyoke would be receiving less money from the federal government. Originally, the city portion of the funds was about \$32 million, and now it will be \$29.8 million. He said the webinar also included instruction about how the funds can be used.

Hard copies of the budget were not available at the May 12 meeting, but were scheduled to be sent out at the end of last week.

SOLDIERS, from page 1

the August 1st deadline is met, the state would be eligible to receive 65% federal reimbursement for the \$400 million Holyoke Soldiers' Home reconstruction project.

Now that differences between the Senate and House bills have been reconciled, the Conference Committee report will head back to each Chamber for an acceptance and enactment vote. If enacted, it will then go to the Governor's desk to be signed into law.

GARDEN, from page 4

Some dahlias like to get a jump-start on the season by prestarting dahlias indoors. We have done this occasionally at Old Sturbridge Village, and I am always amazed at just how fast the plants grow, and how quickly they outgrow their pots and become leggy. If you attempt it, four weeks prior to the last spring frost would be soon enough.

It's my hope that you will venture into the land of dahlia growing and love it as much as I do!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the

position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [ekennedy@turley.com](mailto:ekennedy@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Prevents harm to young  
5. "Losing My Religion" rockers  
8. Partner to pan  
11. Cavalry unit  
13. Peyton's little brother  
14. Mexican dish  
15. Disseminates info to the public  
16. Set an animal on  
17. Canadian flyers  
18. Elongated mouths of arthropods  
20. I (German)  
21. Opposite of west  
22. Glows  
25. Measures how quickly a car moves  
30. One who has gained wealth  
31. Patti Hearst's captors  
32. Extensive landed

CLUES DOWN

1. Scientist's high-reso-

property

33. Male aristocrat  
38. For each  
41. More fidgety  
43. Very happy  
45. A place to store info  
47. Helps to heal  
49. 12th month (abbr.)  
50. Broad, shallow  
55. Nocturnal S. American rodent  
56. Frost  
57. Ethiopian town  
59. Curved shapes  
60. Company that rings receipts  
61. Spiritual leader  
62. Sheep native to Sweden  
63. Cars need it  
64. Partner to relaxation

lution tool (abbr.)

2. Type of school  
3. Formal close (music)  
4. Transmits high voltage  
5. A way to occupy a certain area  
6. Draws out  
7. His Airness  
8. Nocturnal rodents  
9. South American plants  
10. Homestead  
12. Bland or semiliquid food  
14. Forest resident  
19. The body needs it  
23. Atomic mass unit (abbr.)  
24. Spell  
25. Relaxing place  
26. Political fundraising tool  
27. Make a mistake  
28. Partner to Adam

29. Tyrant  
34. Unit of electrical resistance  
35. A history of one's life  
37. Sea eagle  
39. Avoiding being caught  
40. \_\_\_ de Mornay, actress  
41. Belonging to a thing  
42. Not us  
44. Motorcars  
45. Capital of Bangladesh  
46. Ancient Greek sophist  
47. Practice boxing  
48. \_\_\_ Grant, actor  
51. Swiss river  
52. S. Sudan river  
53. A bumpkin  
54. One point south of southwest  
58. Small island (British)

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12:00pm-1:30pm (lunch will be served)

5:00pm-6:30pm (dinner will be served)

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Learn about the resources available for veterans and their spouses to bridge the gap in paying for senior housing:

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- Military, health and financial criteria
- Required materials to get started

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\*Day Brook Village is COVID-19-free as of 4/30/21. As safety is our #1 priority, all in-person sessions will follow CDC and Massachusetts Department of Public Health guidelines. Number of guests will be limited to allow for proper social distancing. All in-person attendees must wear a mask while on campus. Additional information pertaining to our practices to maintain a safe environment for all guests will be provided upon registration.

\*\*Extra savings applied to move ins before 7/31/2021.

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Submitted photo

## House earmarks \$50K for new manufacturing program at HCC

HOLYOKE – Throughout March and April, funds have been sought in the effort to bring the Northampton Airport Wright Flight program to Holyoke youth. We are very excited to announce that the funds have been raised.

Not only have we been able to raise the money, new partnerships were formed to achieve greater collaboration and impact. Vet Air is thrilled to be partnering with the Holyoke Public Schools and the Holyoke Boys and Girls Club to help our youth explore and cultivate interest in avia-

tion through the Northampton Airport Wright Flight curriculum. Northampton Airport Wright Flight is a volunteer organization based out of Northampton Airport in Northampton, MA. This is an Aviation STEM program designed to get youth interested in the world of aviation at an early age, by exploring the history and future of aviation, its global impact and the variety of careers in the aviation industry. Thanks to the generous donations of our community and new community partnerships, soon we will rollout a program in Holyoke that has the ability to change a life forever.

# Department of Children and Families seeks volunteers

REGION – Volunteers are needed from Western Massachusetts to help review cases involving children who are placed in the custody of the state.

The Foster Care Review Unit makes decisions regarding children who are placed in foster care for six months or longer, assessing how well their needs are being met and what progress has been made toward establishing them in a permanent living situation. A Volunteer from the Community is one

member of the three-person panels that make these decisions.

Foster Care Reviews typically last 30 to 90 minutes and are being conducted remotely during the pandemic. Volunteers need to be 18 years or older and must participate in pre-service training that is currently being conducted remotely. For an application and further information, please contact Lashanda Stone at [Lashanda.Stone@Mass.Gov](mailto:Lashanda.Stone@Mass.Gov).

## Registration open for free STCC summer STEM-learning program

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Technical Community College has opened registration for its free STEM Starter Academy's Summer Bridge program which runs July 5 through Aug. 12.

12. Incoming students pursuing a STEM major (science, technology, engineering or math) and who are accepted into the program can earn free college credits and a \$500 stipend upon successful participation and completion.

The deadline to apply is June 11. Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Massachusetts high school graduate class of 2019, 2020 or 2021
- Massachusetts resident
- Incoming STEM major student registered for fall 2021 classes
- GPA of 2.7 or above
- Submit a STEM Starter Academy application with transcript

“This is a terrific opportunity for incoming fall 2021 students registered

in a STEM major to get a jumpstart to their first semester on campus,” said Reena Randhir, director of STEM Starter Academy. “Students in the Bridge program will have a chance to complete their first math and first-year experience class tuition free and enjoy other benefits that will enrich their STCC experience.”

Other benefits include free supplies, tutoring, peer-mentoring, and advising which will be continued until students graduate or transfer.

To keep students, staff and faculty safe during the COVID-19 pandemic, the summer program will be held virtually.

For additional information and to apply, visit [stcc.edu/bridge](http://stcc.edu/bridge). Questions? Contact Reena Randhir, director of STEM Starter Academy, at [rrandhir@stcc.edu](mailto:rrandhir@stcc.edu) or (413) 755-4576.

Interested in applying to STCC?  
Visit [stcc.edu/apply](http://stcc.edu/apply) or call Admissions  
at (413) 755-3333.

## WSU to offer SAT Online Summer Institute for high school students

WESTFIELD —Westfield State University will offer multiple sessions of its SAT Online Summer Institute for high school students, starting June 14.

well on the exam. Students receive an in-depth review of the exam content, strategies for improving their scores, and a comprehensive study plan.

The cost of the SAT Online Summer Institute is \$499, which includes all books and materials as well as access to online resources through the end of the year. For more information, contact Brandon Fredette at [bfredette@westfield.ma.edu](mailto:bfredette@westfield.ma.edu) or 413-572-8033. To register online for any of the available sessions, visit [www.westfield.ma.edu/testprep](http://www.westfield.ma.edu/testprep).

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**BONELESS BLADE STEAKS .....\$6<sup>99</sup>** lb

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---

USDA INSP.  
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# SPORTS

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## Knights drop decision to Tigers

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – South Hadley varsity softball coach Jess Nelson has known the eight seniors on this year's team since they were eighth graders.

The Lady Tigers celebrated senior night with a 16-10 victory over rival Holyoke under the bright lights at Beachgrounds Park in South Hadley, last Tuesday, May 11. It was the Lady Tigers first win of the regular season.

"The longer that I've been coaching the varsity softball team, the more emotional senior night gets for me," Nelson said. "We've traditionally faced Holyoke on senior night and it has turned into a very good rivalry game for us."

The eight South Hadley seniors, who were honored during a pregame ceremony, are Emily Bartusewich, Molly Goshea, Kate Kretchmar,

Belle McCallum, Vanessa Plamondon, Aisley Poirier, Maddi Rainaud, and Kelsey Stewart.

"When the seniors were in the eighth grade, we received a waiver that allowed them to play for the junior varsity softball team. A few of them also had older sisters who played softball for me. Every senior class is really special to me."

It was the Lady Tigers only home night game of the regular season at Beachgrounds Park.

"We normally play a couple of night games at this field, but we're only playing one night game at this field this year," Nelson said. "My players really enjoy playing night games in front of their family and friends. It's more of a stadium like atmosphere here."

South Hadley (1-1) scored at least one run in all six innings that they batted.

Goshea, who's the Lady Tigers starting shortstop is plan-



Jenialis Camacho tags out the runner sliding into third base.

Photo by Kara Walsh-Vey

ning to play softball and soccer at Elms College next year. She only had one base hit on senior night, but she reached base a total of four times.

"A couple of our former players have played college softball in the past, which

is really special," Nelson said. "We do have a good group of kids on this year's team."

One of the South Hadley underclassmen, who played a key role in the victory, was freshman leftfielder Jenna Bobrowski. She had a

team-leading three base hits and scored four runs from the lead-off spot. South Hadley junior Kelli Vey, who was a defensive replacement, knocked home two runs with a single to left in

See **SOFTBALL**, page 8

## Santaniello makes impact in Mutiny's return

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – Most college students will usually chill out for the rest of the day after taking a final exam.

That's not exactly what Laura Gouvin, who lives in Monson, did after taking a Spanish final at Boston College last Saturday afternoon.

After finishing the last exam of her freshman year, Gouvin drove about 80 miles west on the Mass. Pike. She arrived at historic Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow about ten minutes prior to the start of the New England Mutiny's season opening match versus the

Boston Scorpions S.C., who are first-year member of the United Women's Soccer League.

The Scorpions stunned the Mutiny by scoring a pair of goals during the first ten minutes and they held onto the lead for the next 65 minutes.

Gouvin, who's a midfielder, assisted on the Mutiny's first goal of the season which was scored by Agawam native Hope Santaniello, who's a forward, during the 76th minute.

A minute later, Melina Couzis, who was a senior defender on the UConn women's soccer team this past spring, netted the equalizer for the Mutiny and the match ended in a 2-2 draw.

"Even though I only played a couple of games for the Mutiny in 2019, I really love being a member of this soccer club," said Gouvin. "This stadium is very close to my hometown and I'm really looking forward to playing a full season with the Mutiny this year."

Gouvin and several of her teammates have never lost a regular season match while wearing a Mutiny uniform. The last time they suffered a regular season loss was during 2018 season. The Mutiny played their home matches at several different fields that season before moving into Lusitano Stadium

See **MUTINY**, page 8



Hope Santaniello, of Agawam, scored in the season opener.



Lauren Berman looks to switch up her feet.

Photos by David Henry



Laura Govin, of Monson, tries to advance the ball up the field.

## Buffone captures first win of season

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Ricky Whipple romped to victory in the 57-lap John Zellman Memorial Pure Stock feature Saturday, May 8, at Monadnock Speedway, however in post-race inspection, Davis was awarded the win.

Cam Curtis flexed his muscles to top the Late Model Sportsman main, with Chris Buffone taking no prisoners en route to the Street Stock victory.

Mini Stock ace Gordon Farmum earned his first victory lap of the season Saturday, while Six Shooter powerhouse Dustin Thibodeau's first career outing on the high banks netted him the win, and Jake Bosse was victorious for the second week in a row in the Young Guns.

Pure Stock powerhouses Chris Davis and Kodi Sabins

led the 21-car field to begin the 57-lapper, which would sail by in breakneck fashion, as all 57-circuits around the high banks were run without cautions. Davis was the man on the point for the first 23 go-rounds.

But while Davis was fast, Ricky Whipple was on a rail. Dropping Davis to second on lap 24, he then sped away and hid. Sabins, a distant second with the white flag in the air, suddenly coasted to a stop in the infield, handing the runner-up spot back to Davis, with former Modman Joey Jarvis completing his charge from row five to finish third. (in post-race inspection the official top three were Chris Davies, Joey Jarvis and JD Stockwell).

Robert Hagar led early

See **RACING**, page 8



Chris Buffone, of Belchertown, picked up a win in the 25-lap Street Stock event May 8 at Monadnock Speedway.

Submitted photo







Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Docket No. HD21P0803GD  
In the matter of:  
Quancey Benton  
Of: Holyoke, MA  
RESPONDENT  
Alleged Incapacitated Person  
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304  
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Department Of Mental Health of Northampton, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Quancey Benton is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Grace Perez of Indian Orchard, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 06/07/2021. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you in addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE  
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: May 06, 2021  
Rosemary A Saccomani  
Register of Probate  
05/21/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street

Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD21C0083CA  
In the matter of:  
Johanna Rodriguez Centeno  
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME  
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Johanna Rodriguez Centeno of Holyoke MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:  
Joviel Vicente Rodriguez  
IMPORTANT NOTICE  
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/07/2021.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.  
WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: May 05, 2021  
Rosemary A Saccomani  
Register of Probate  
05/21/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD17P1597EA  
Estate of:  
Betty Lucille Dion  
Also known as:  
Betty H Dion  
Date of Death: 11/23/2016  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for S/A - Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment has been filed by Linda A. Holbrook of Manchester, NH requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.  
The Petitioner requests that: Linda A. Holbrook of Manchester, NH be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/07/2021.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE

(MUPC)  
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.  
WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: May 10, 2021  
Rosemary A Saccomani  
Register of Probate  
05/21/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD21C0086CA  
In the matter of:  
Kayla Rebecka Garafolo  
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME  
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Kayla Rebecka Garafolo of Holyoke, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:  
Kayla Rebecka Guilbault  
IMPORTANT NOTICE  
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/04/2021.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.  
WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: May 07, 2021  
Rosemary A Saccomani  
Register of Probate  
05/21/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD21C0087CA  
Docket No. HD21C0088CA  
In the matters of:  
Sarah Kathryn Peacock and Danielle Marie Ryan  
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME  
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Sarah Kathryn Peacock and Danielle Marie Ryan both of Holyoke, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their names to:  
Sarah Kathryn O'Shea and Dani Marie O'Shea  
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of

06/14/2021.  
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.  
WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland First Justice of this Court.  
Date: May 10, 2021  
Rosemary A Saccomani  
Register of Probate  
05/21/2021

Notice of Public Hearing  
The Ordinance Committee of the Holyoke City Council and the Planning Board will hold a joint public hearing on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. to hear a zone change proposal to have the City of Holyoke remove from its Code of Ordinances, Appendix A, Zoning Ordinance, Section 8.3 "Shopping Center Districts" and any other references to said zone and replace with Retail Center (RC).  
Meeting will take place remotely and can be accessed via www.zoom.us Meeting ID: 883 4833 1186 Meeting Passcode: 250991 or by call in at 1 (646)558-8656 with the same Meeting ID and Passcode.  
Written public comment can be submitted to publiccomment@holyoke.org.  
For information on these applications please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at anderson-burgosj@holyoke.org or by phone at (413) 322-5525.

Ordinance Chair  
Rebecca Lisi  
05/21, 05/28/2021

Notice of Public Hearing  
The Ordinance Committee of the Holyoke City Council and the Planning Board will hold a joint public hearing on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 6:30p.m. to hear a zone change proposal to create a Retail Center (RC) zone taking into account both present tenancies and desired future development of such properties, with appropriate criteria to ensure proper cohesive uses and promote continued mixed commercial / retail in Holyoke.  
Meeting will take place remotely and can be accessed via www.zoom.us Meeting ID: 883 4833 1186 Meeting Passcode: 250991 or by call in at 1 (646)558-8656 with the same Meeting ID and Passcode.  
Written public comment can be submitted to publiccomment@holyoke.org.  
For information on these applications please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at anderson-burgosj@holyoke.org or by phone at (413) 322-5525.

Ordinance Chair  
Rebecca Lisi  
05/21, 05/28/2021

Notice of Public Hearing  
The Ordinance Committee of the Holyoke City Council and the Planning Board will hold a joint public hearing on Tuesday June 8, 2021 at 6:30

p.m. to hear a zone change proposals to rezone the following parcels to Retail Center (RC) in an effort to create a cohesive regional destination district of mixed commercial / retail which all property owners will share the same regulations: Lower Westfield Rd (117-00-005), 229-241 Whiting Farms Rd (174-00-013), 227 Whiting Farms Rd (174-00-013A), Lower Westfield Rd (174-00-013B), 95 Lower Westfield Rd (174-00-016), 250 Whiting Farms Rd (174-00-017), 225 Whiting Farms Rd (174-00-018), 7 Holyoke St (174-00-020), 98 Lower Westfield Rd (174-00-021), 94 Lower Westfield Rd (174-00-022), 86 Lower Westfield Rd (174-00-024), Whitney Ave (176-00-010B), 50 Holyoke St (176-00-010C), 400 Whitney Ave (176-00-013), Whitney Ave (176-00-014), 489 Whitney Ave (176-00-014.1), 494 Whitney Ave (176-00-027), 496 Whitney Ave (176-00-028), Whitney Ave (176-00-029).

Meeting will take place remotely and can be accessed via www.zoom.us Meeting ID: 883 4833 1186 Meeting Passcode: 250991 or by call in at 1 (646)558-8656 with the same Meeting ID and Passcode.

Written public comment can be submitted to publiccomment@holyoke.org.  
For information on these applications please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at anderson-burgosj@holyoke.org or by phone at (413) 322-5525 .

Ordinance Chair  
Rebecca Lisi  
05/21, 05/28/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Docket No. HD95P1790  
In the interests of:  
George Walker, Jr.  
Formerly of Holyoke, MA, now of Leeds, MA  
RESPONDENT  
Incapacitated Person/ Protected Person  
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION TO EXPAND THE POWERS OF A GUARDIAN

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Tammy Walker of Leeds, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court:

Expand the powers of a Guardian of the Respondent.

The petition asks the court to make a determination that the powers of the Guardian should be expanded, modified, or limited since the time of the appointment. The original petition is on file with the court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the

return date of 06/01/2021. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE  
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: April 26, 2021  
Rosemary A. Saccomani  
Register of Probate  
05/21/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD11P0761EA  
Estate of:  
HENRY J WIELGOSZ, SR.  
Date of Death: 12/14/2010  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by David Wielgosz of Holyoke MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, a determination of testacy and heirs at law and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/11/2021.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court  
Date: May 10, 2021  
Rosemary A Saccomani  
Register of Probate  
05/21/2021

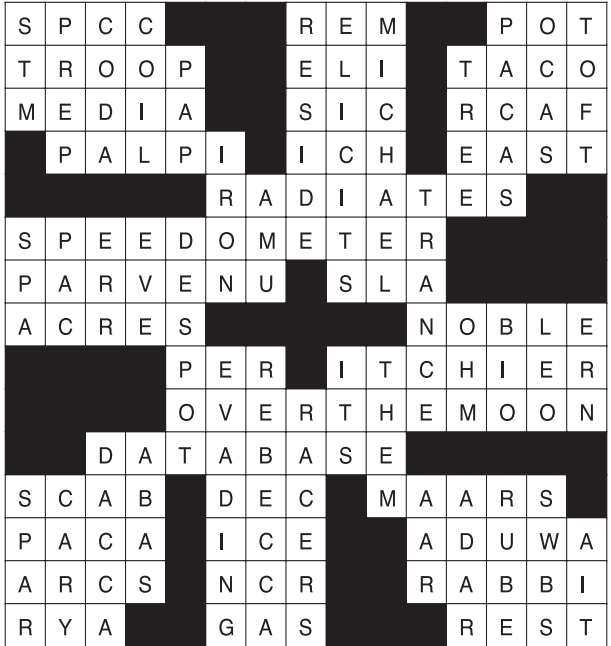
The Sun  
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$120, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.



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- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
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**HUGE TAG SALE** Union Church 51  
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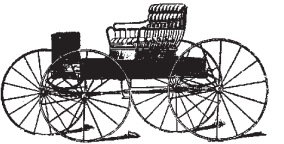
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BELCHERTOWN, MA**

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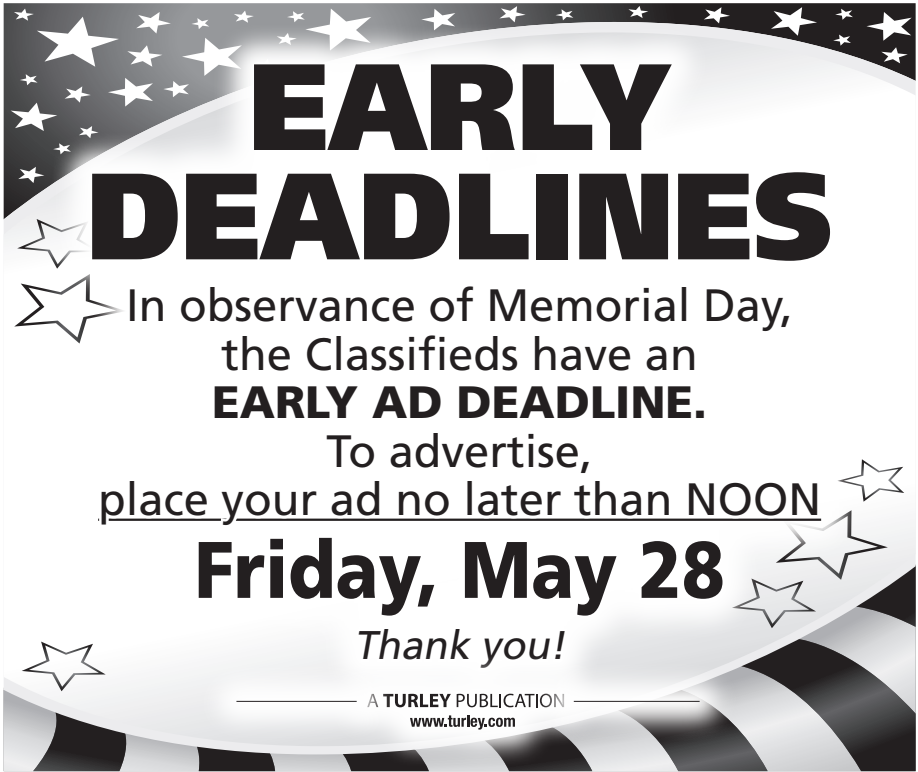
**\*NEW STATE LAW.** Anyone adver-  
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To advertise,  
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**Friday, May 28**  
*Thank you!*  
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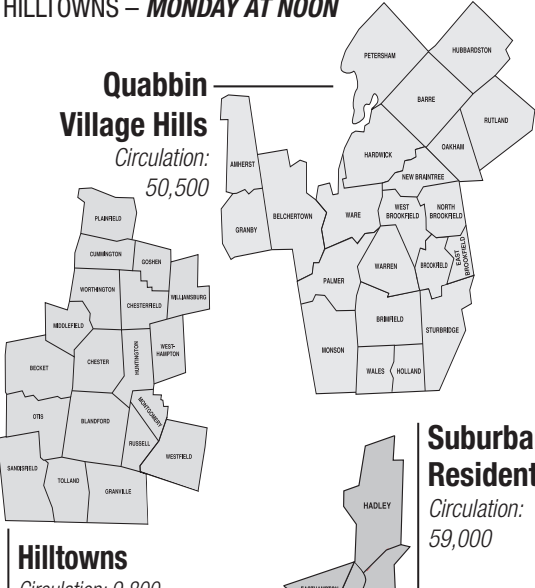
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HILLTOWNS – **MONDAY AT NOON**

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card: ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ Discover ☐ Cash ☐ Check# \_\_\_\_\_  
Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount of charge: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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**ALL REAL ESTATE** advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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# Class of 2021



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### 2 x 3 Black & White Graduation Ad

~~Regular Price \$65.00~~

### SPECIAL \$45.00

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EMAIL YOUR AD TO:  
**wdelcamp@turley.com**

MAIL YOUR AD WITH PAYMENT TO:  
**Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069**  
Pay by check or credit card: Checks Payable to  
Turley Publications, Credit Cards be sure to include: Paper, Name,  
Address, Phone, Credit Card Number, Exp. Date & CVV

### 2 x 3 Advertisement

Congratulations  
Carrie Smith  
We are so  
very proud of  
you and your  
accomplishments.  
Good luck  
at Springfield  
College.

Love Dad. Mom



TURLEY PUBLICATIONS • 24 WATER STREET, PALMER, MA 01069 • 413.283.8393



# Flags fly again

Six Flags New England  
re-opened last weekend

By Shelby Macri  
smacri@turley.com

AGAWAM – The biggest taxpayer in Agawam is back in business. And business is going to pick up.

Six Flags New England theme park has re-opened since their closing during last year’s pandemic, the park opened this past weekend and welcomed long waiting visitors.

Communications Manager Jennifer McGrath mentioned that the park was scheduled to open in April of last year but was unable to as guidelines changed, now over a year later the park is ready to re-open and will be following state mandated safety protocols. There will be many changes and the park will look different from the summer of 2019. There is a long list of safety protocols for staff and guests to follow while in the park, they’re all listed on the park’s website for people to view before attending.

Protocols include having guests review a Health Policy before entering, requiring all guests from ages 3 and up to wear a mask covering their nose and mouth at all times, staying cashless within the park including parking, and keeping social distancing within the park. Guests will have to purchase their tickets online and make a reservation for when they plan to visit as a way for the park to control daily capacity limits, though visitors will have to enter the park at a set time their tickets are for the whole day.

Upon entering guests will have a non-invasive temperature check, if someone has a temperature of 100.4 degrees or

higher they will be directed to the park’s medical technician to determine whether they can be safely admitted to the park. The park cannot guarantee that visitors will not be exposed to the coronavirus during a visit, and asks that guests evaluate their own risk before visiting. If someone has tested positive or has symptoms, they should not attend the park.

“It’s been incredible, the amount of support we’ve received from guests,” McGrath said. “We want people to know the fun and memories are still here, and we’re being safe too.” Many people have taken advantage of reading posted signage, watching social distancing messaging, using hand washing and sanitizer stations throughout the park, as well as the many cleaning protocols and items throughout the park. There are sanitizers in ride queues and employees are washing and disinfecting common areas, restrooms, changing stations, and shops throughout the day.

All the lines for food and rides have six-foot markers for groups and individuals to stand, families and groups coming in together can stay in a group but they must distance from other groups and individuals.

“Guests have been supportive and are adhering to the guidelines well, it’s just like other areas they’ve been too,” McGrath said. “But we have staff patrolling the park so social distancing and mask wearing are being adhered to, if a guest is continually not complying they will be escorted from the park.”

Masks need to be worn at all times by everyone three or older, no exceptions as the park is following state guidelines given to them in order to open.

Along with reserving a space online, visitors are encouraged to pay for parking



Six Flags is being sanitized regularly as it re-opens to customers.

Submitted photo

online to limit cash transactions as they’re going cashless this summer. The park asks that people come prepared with their debit or credit cards, and if guests do bring cash they will be able to visit a cash to card machine at the front of the park. They can put in their cash and it’ll be put onto a prepaid card to be used anywhere in the park, and they can use the card outside the park like a pre-paid gift card. The park has made many changes, including the rides.

A new ride has been introduced to the park, though it’s not currently open it’ll be introduced this summer. The Supergirl Sky Flyer will be a part of the DC Universe portion of the park and will be close to its cousin Superman. This area of the park along with the rest of the areas, have been painted, landscaped, cleaned, and maintained during the 13-month closure of the park. McGrath said the maintain team has put in a lot of work to get the park ready for visitors, and the areas will continue to be maintained in high regards as the park will be cleaned routinely.

The return of the park means a lot

for the town of Agawam as it brings in business for local food shops, gas stations, hotels, and other business along Main Street and McGrath said the park looks forward to bringing this business back. She mentioned that the opening has called for hiring newcomers and re-hires alike, especially with their Water Park opening soon. “We do have positions open right now and we encourage people to apply, we see Agawam High School Students as well as college students and we provide training and certifications, this is an asset on a resume,” McGrath said. “I actually worked in the water park before and it was the most fun, it’s in the top positions I’ve held.”

She encourages people to visit the Six Flags website and Facebook Page as they are the most active on those platforms.

For more information on attending the park, applying for a job, safety protocols, Health Policy, or if someone has any questions they can visit the park’s website at <https://www.sixflags.com>

The protocols are also subject to change following Gov. Baker’s announcement Monday morning.

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